THE SHADOW SAGA
PART 4 OF 4
#4
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Tracy Yardley!
JENSEN

Welcome to the planet Mobius – a world unique and beyond what you know from the SEGA games!
Where Shadow and his team of covert agents take on anyone who stands in the way of their prize!

THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM

WE'RE ABOUT TO BRAVE THE UNKNOWN. EXCITED?
NOT PARTICULARLY. ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER MISSION.
ROUGE THE BAT EXPERT TREASURE HUNTER
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG MASTER OF CHAOS CONTROL

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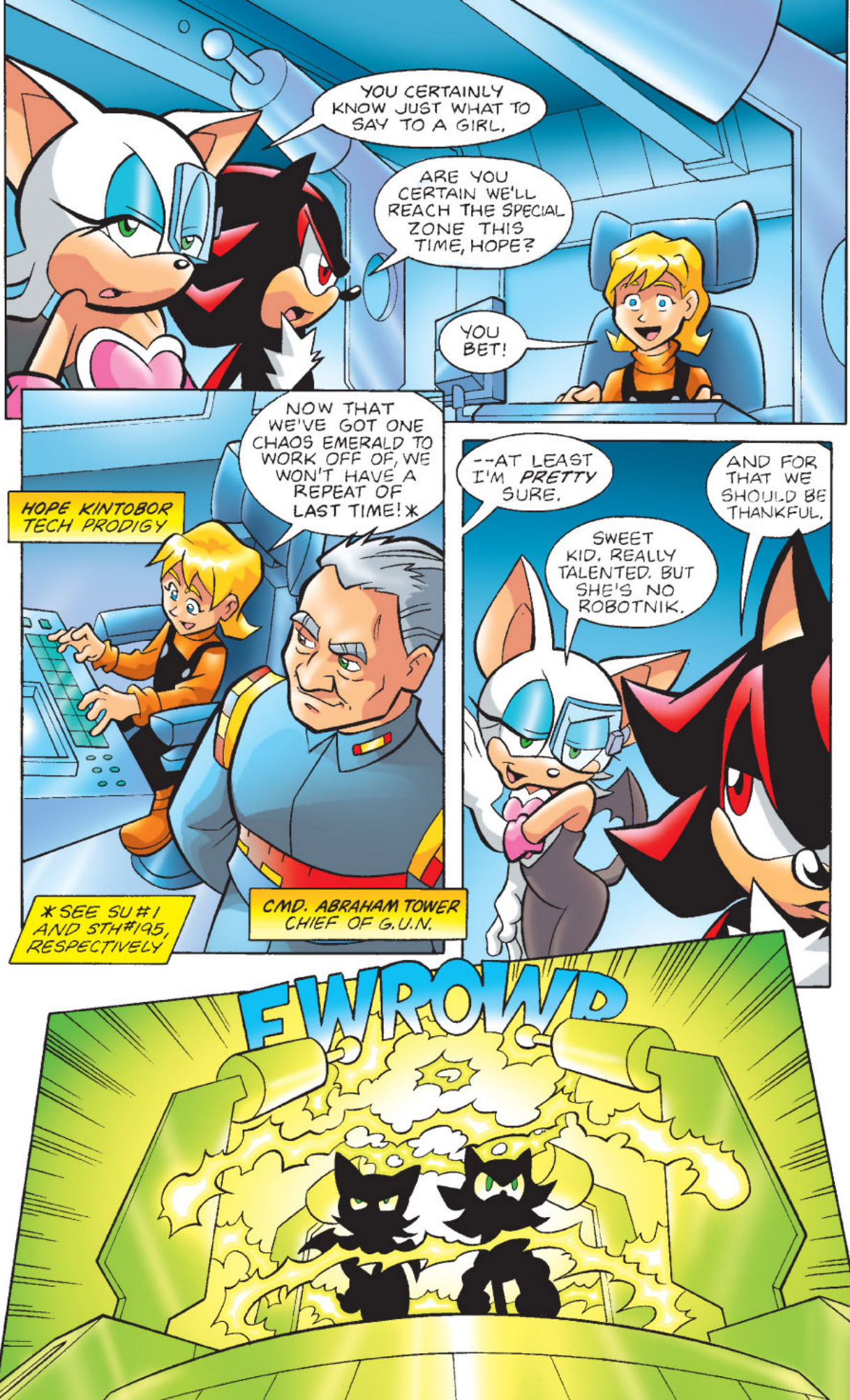
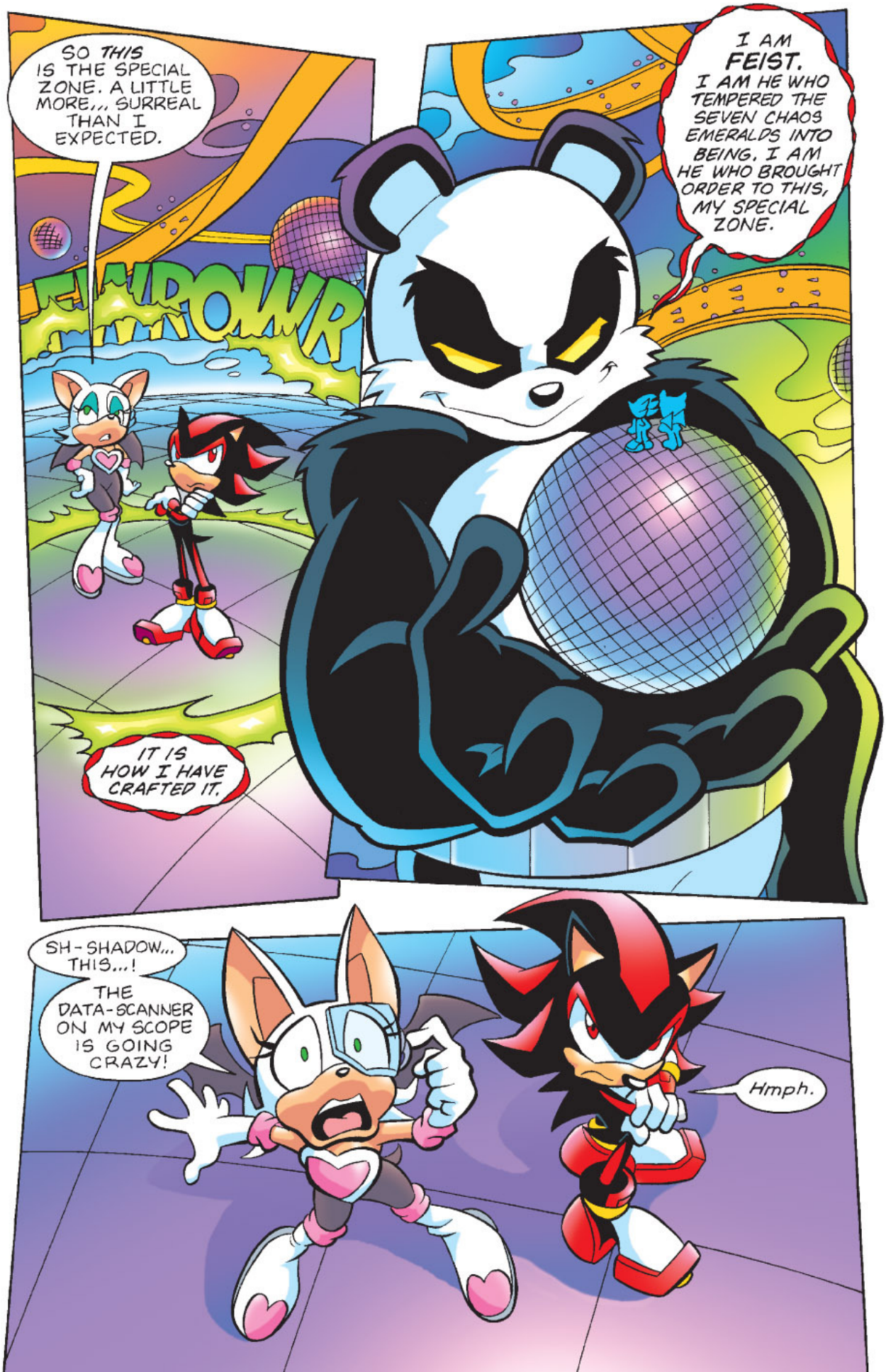
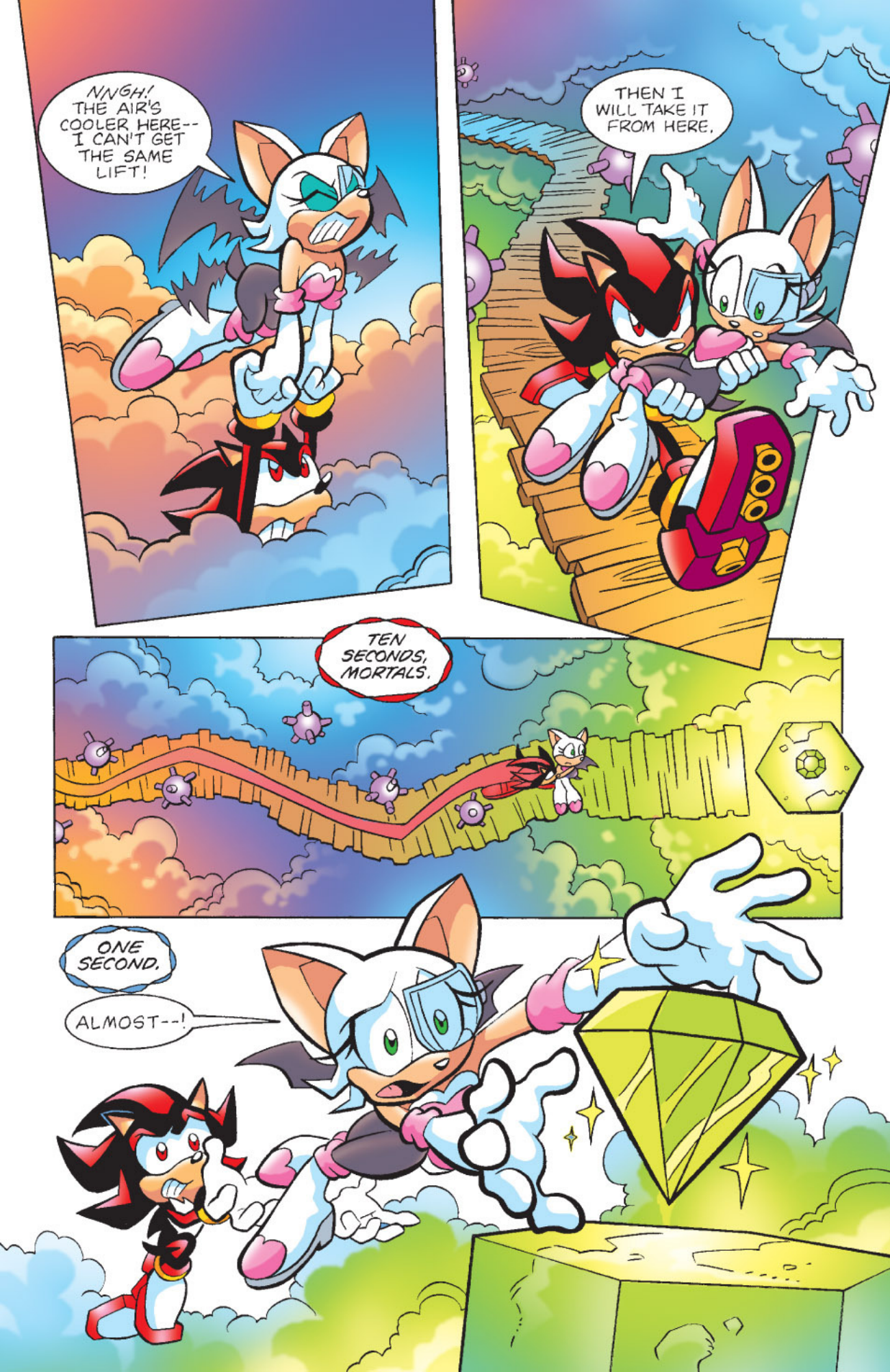
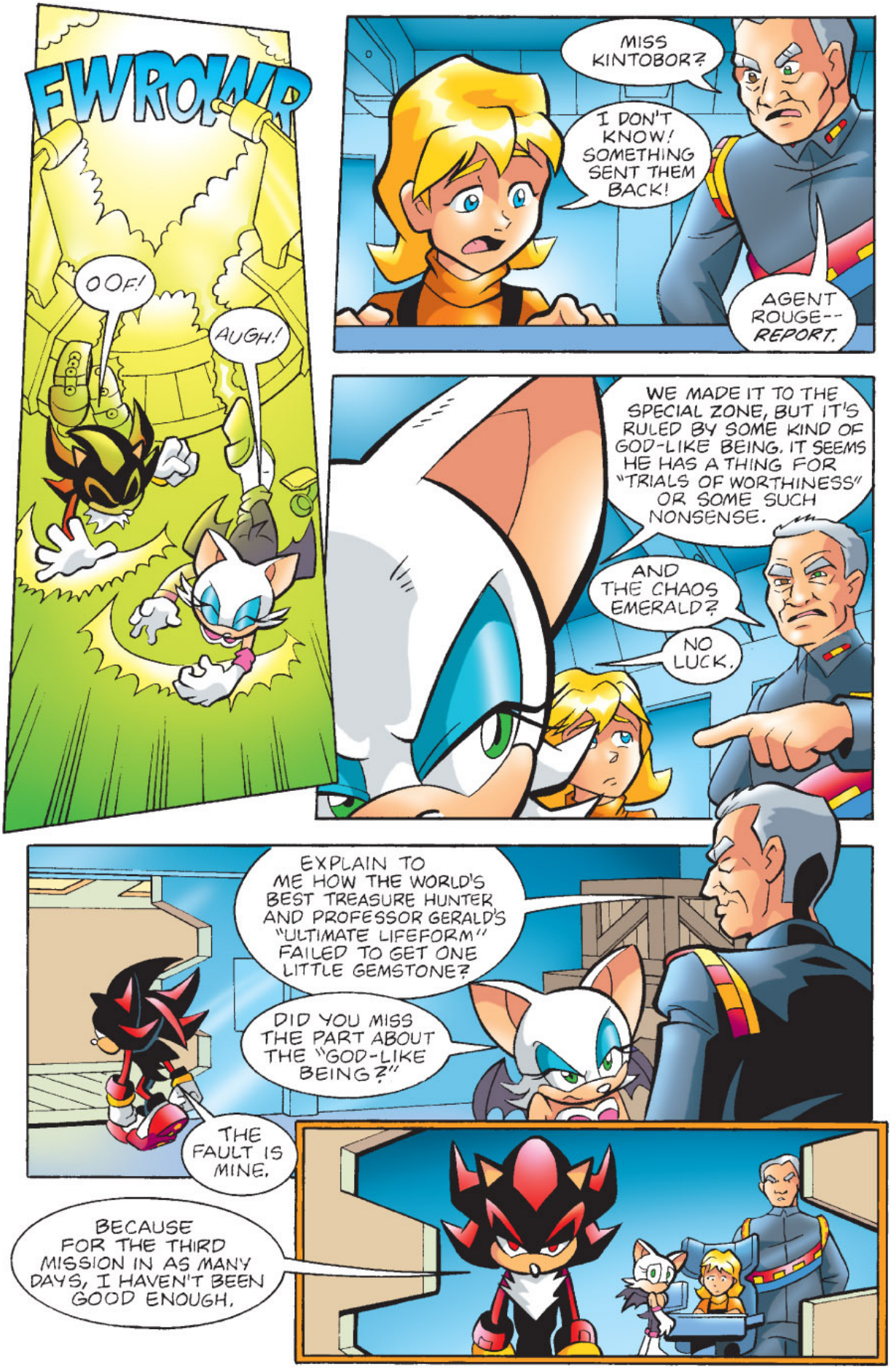

YOU CERTAINLY KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY TO A GIRL.
ARE YOU CERTAIN WE'LL REACH THE SPECIAL ZONE THIS TIME, HOPE?
YOU BET!
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT ONE CHAOS EMERALD TO WORK OFF OF, WE WON'T HAVE A REPEAT OF LAST TIME! *
HOPE KINTOBOR TECH PRODIGY
CMD. ABRAHAM TOWER CHIEF OF G.U.N.
* SEE SU #1 AND STH#195, RESPECTIVELY
--AT LEAST I'M PRETTY SURE.
SWEET KID. REALLY TALENTED. BUT SHE'S NO ROBOTNIK.
AND FOR THAT WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL.
FWROWD


SO THIS IS THE SPECIAL ZONE. A LITTLE MORE,,, SURREAL THAN I EXPECTED.
I AM FEIST. I AM HE WHO TEMPERED THE SEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS INTO BEING. I AM HE WHO BROUGHT ORDER TO THIS, MY SPECIAL ZONE.
IT IS HOW I HAVE CRAFTED IT.
SH-SHADOW... THIS...! THE DATA-SCANNER ON MY SCOPE IS GOING CRAZY!
Hmph.

WHY DO YOU BREACH MY DOMAIN, MORTALS?
MORTAL? I AM THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM. YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE CHAOS EMERALDS.
I WILL GLADLY AWARD ONE TO THOSE WHO SATISFY MY CHALLENGES. MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH FIRE AND STEEL AND CLOUD TO REACH YOUR PRIZE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
CHAOS CONTROL.
--WHAT?!
CHAOS CONTROL! CHAOS CONTROL!

WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T KNOW! I CAN FEEL AN ABUNDANCE OF CHAOS ENERGY, BUT I CAN'T TAP INTO IT!
BECAUSE I WILL IT TO BE SO. HERE, "ULTIMATE LIFEFORM," YOU ARE ULTIMATELY MORTAL. HERE, I AM A GOD.
YOUR CHALLENGE BEGAN THIRTY SECONDS AGO. YOU HAVE THIRTY MORE LEFT.
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF-- COME ON!
I'LL RIDE THE RISING AIR AND BYPASS WHAT I CAN. YOU KEEP GIVING ME EXTRA LIFT!
RIGHT!


NNGH! THE AIR'S COOLER HERE-- I CAN'T GET THE SAME LIFT!
THEN I WILL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
TEN SECONDS, MORTALS.
ONE SECOND.
ALMOST--!


FWROWR
OOF!
AUGH!
MISS KINTOBOR?
I DON'T KNOW! SOMETHING SENT THEM BACK!
AGENT ROUGE-- REPORT.
WE MADE IT TO THE SPECIAL ZONE, BUT IT'S RULED BY SOME KIND OF GOD-LIKE BEING. IT SEEMS HE HAS A THING FOR "TRIALS OF WORTHINESS" OR SOME SUCH NONSENSE.
AND THE CHAOS EMERALD?
NO LUCK.
EXPLAIN TO ME HOW THE WORLD'S BEST TREASURE HUNTER AND PROFESSOR GERALD'S "ULTIMATE LIFEFORM" FAILED TO GET ONE LITTLE GEMSTONE?
DID YOU MISS THE PART ABOUT THE "GOD-LIKE BEING?"
THE FAULT IS MINE.
BECAUSE FOR THE THIRD MISSION IN AS MANY DAYS, I HAVEN'T BEEN GOOD ENOUGH.

LATER--
G.U.N. HQ--GYM
E-123 "OMEGA"
WALKING ARSENAL
YOU ARE AGITATED.
USUALLY I AM THE ONE TO INITIATE A SPARRING MATCH. YOU DO NOT BREAK LIKE G.U.N.'S EQUIPMENT.
Hmph.
Hmph.
I KNOW OF YOUR MISSION FAILURE. DO NOT LET IT CONCERN YOU.
Hmph.
I HAVE RECEIVED MY CLEARANCE FOR ACTIVE DUTY. WHEN NEXT WE CONFRONT FEIST, WE WILL HAVE A NEW EDGE.
NNGH?
I WILL BLAST HIM!
BAH!
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

GUARDIAN MOUNTAIN-- EXTERIOR OF G.U.N. HQ
THERE YOU ARE! I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW ABOUT THIS SPOT.
CAPITAL CITY IS REAL PRETTY FROM UP HERE, ISN'T IT? ON A CLEAR DAY, YOU CAN SEE ALL THE WAY TO SOLEANNA!
IT'S OKAY THAT YOU DIDN'T GET THAT CHAOS EMERALD.
NO, IT'S NOT.
I AM THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM. I WAS BUILT TO BE PERFECT.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO FAIL.

AT LEAST YOU HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE. I DON'T HAVE ANY PANDA-GOD-THINGS TO BLAME.
WHAT? WHEN DID YOU EVER FAIL AS BADLY AS I HAVE?
WHEN I LISTENED TO MY STEP-BROTHER, SNIVELY. HE CONVINCED ME TO LEAVE KNOTHOLE AND EXPLORE THE UNITED FEDERATION ON MY OWN. *
* BREAK OUT THE BACK-ISSUES AND FIND STH #162.
WHEN I WENT BACK, KNOTHOLE WAS GONE.** I CAN'T GO BACK AND FACE SONIC AND THE OTHERS NOW. THEY TOOK ME IN, MADE ME FEEL LIKE FAMILY, AND THEN I LEFT THEM BEHIND. THAT'S PRETTY EPIC FAILURE, RIGHT?
** YOU REMEMBER STH #175, OF COURSE...RIGHT?

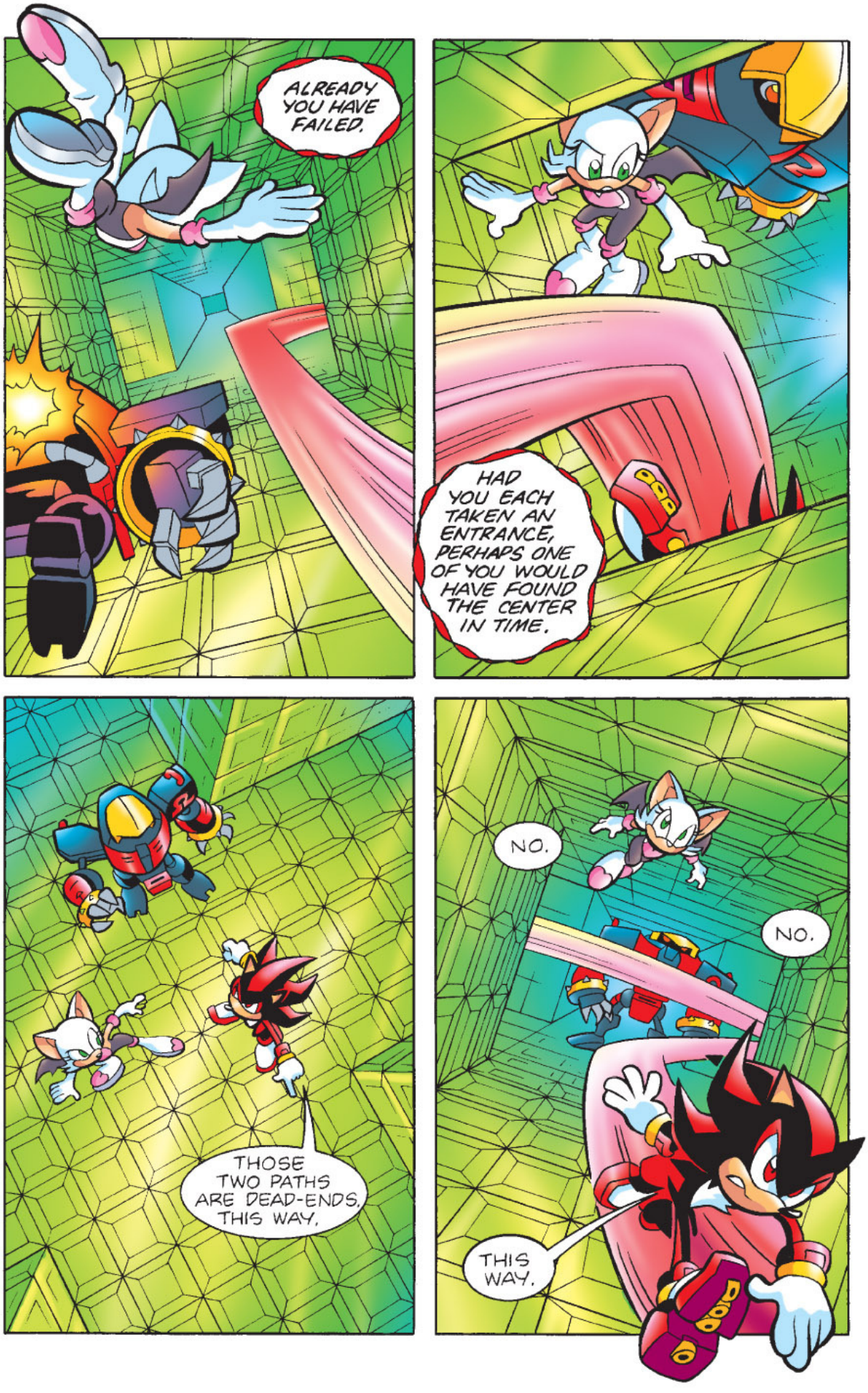
NO ONE FORESAW THE DOCTOR'S ATTACK. THAT WAS NOT YOUR FAILURE. YOU FACED THE UNKNOWN, AGAIN, BRAVELY AND BOLDLY. TRUSTING YOUR FAMILY AND PUSHING YOUR BOUNDARIES IS NO MISTAKE.
IF ANYTHING, SNIVELY SAVED YOU. NOW YOU'RE BACK AMONG YOUR PEOPLE. YOU'RE HELPING US FIGHT THE DOCTOR'S FORCES HERE AND ABROAD. YOU HAVEN'T FAILED.
OKAY, THEN, YOU HAVEN'T FAILED EITHER.
Hmph.
NOPE. SEE, NOW YOU KNOW HOW THIS FEIST GUY WORKS. YOU KNOW HIS TRICKS, YOU KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS, AND YOU CAN PLAN YOUR ATTACK INSTEAD OF FLYING BLIND. YOU DIDN'T FAIL, YOU JUST SET YOURSELF UP FOR FUTURE SUCCESS.

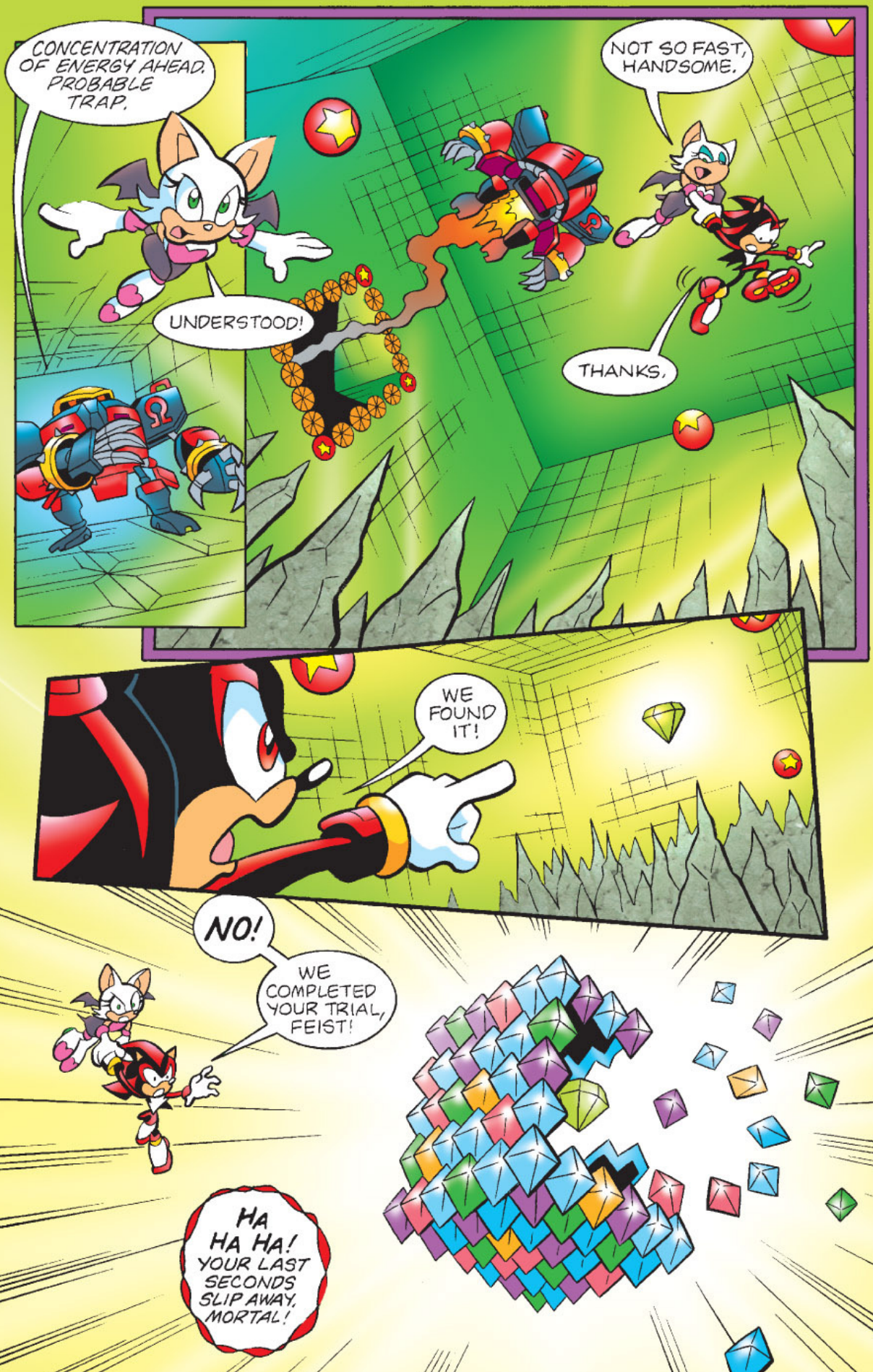
Y'KNOW, WHEN WE FIRST MET, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SCARY. NOW I KNOW YOU'RE JUST AS LOST AS I AM IN THIS BIG, CRAZY WORLD.
BUT WE'LL LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
I'LL KEEP INVENTING STUFF, AND YOU KEEP BUSTING BAD GUYS. WE'LL BE OKAY IN THE END, RIGHT?
RIGHT.

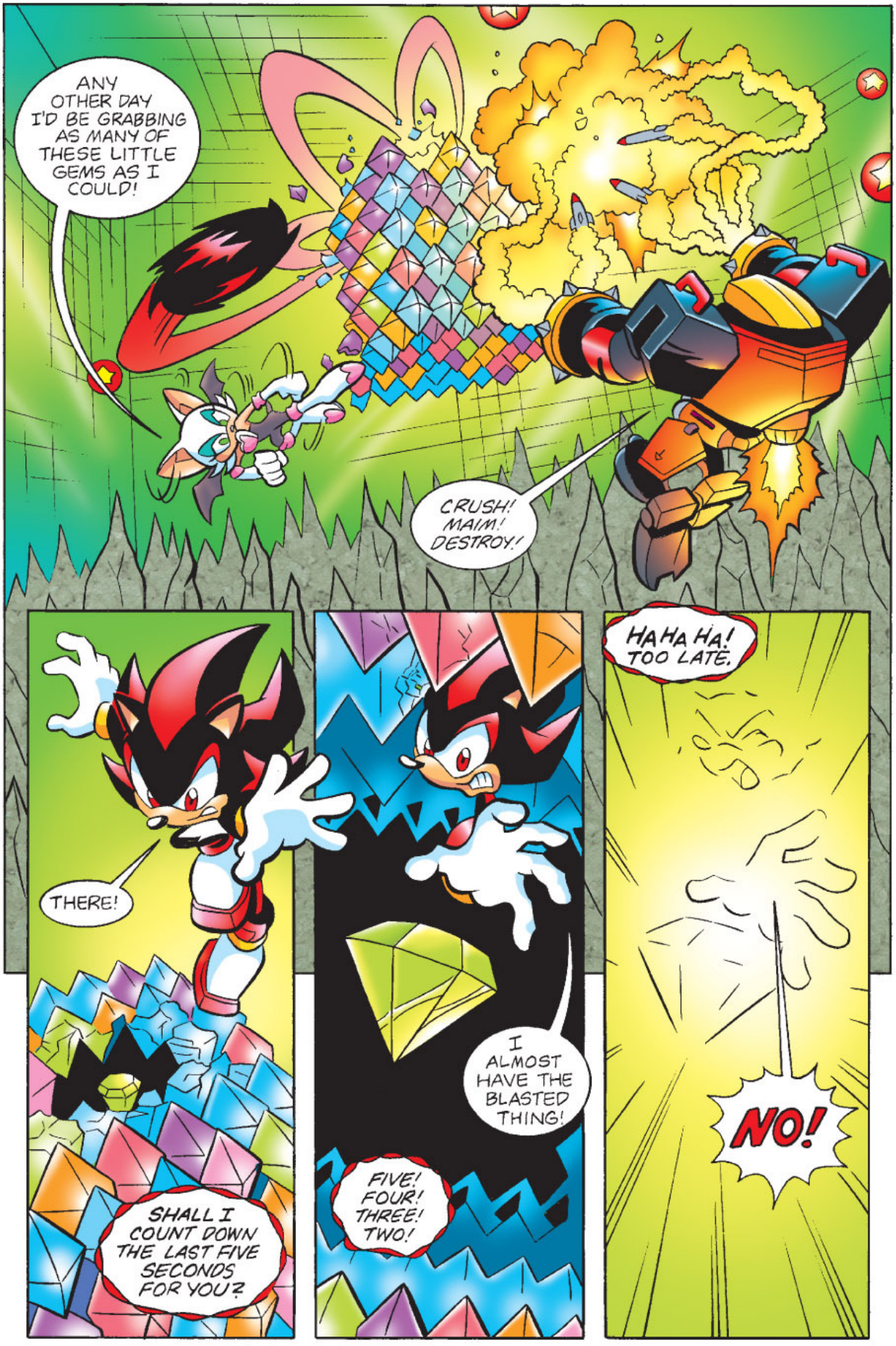
AND SO...
ALL SYSTEMS GREEN, COMMANDER. JUST GIVE THE WORD!
THE REAL QUESTION IS, ARE YOU READY?
YES.
TEAM DARK READY.
"TEAM DARK?" I GUESS WE'RE REALLY STICKING WITH THAT ONE?
AND THERE THEY GO!
WHY "TEAM DARK," SIR?
FWROWR
THAT WILL BECOME EVIDENT IN TIME, MISS KINTOBOR.

SENSOR OVERLOAD. ENERGY READINGS THAT ARE NOT POSSIBLE. PERMISSION TO REGULATE WITH FIRE?
DENIED.
STICK TO PLAN A, YOU PYRO.
THE PRETENDER RETURNS WITH PLANS AND LITTLE TIN SOLDIERS. HOW AMUSING! FEIST IS PLEASED.
THE MASSIVE ANOMALY IMPLIES I AM NOT STRUCTURALLY SOUND.
PERMISSION TO ADMONISH WITH FIRE?
GET IN LINE.
REEL IT IN, BOYS. YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE. WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE THIS TIME?

YOUR PRIZE RESTS AT THE CENTER OF MY MAZE. NAVIGATE IT WITHIN A MINUTE'S TIME AS I TURN IT AT MY WHIM. DO YOU ACCEPT, MORTALS?
LET'S GO, TEAM DARK.

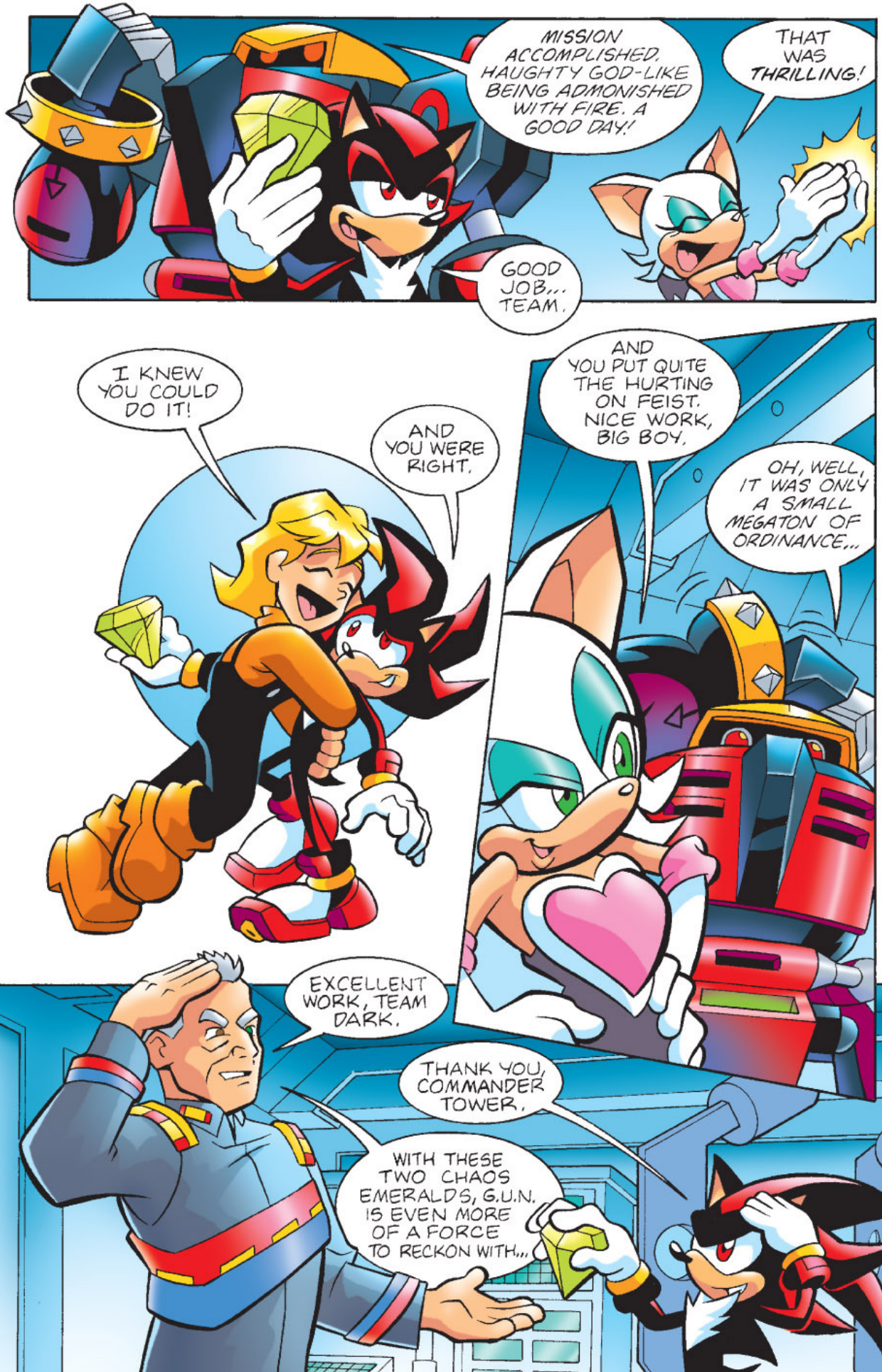

ALREADY YOU HAVE FAILED.
HAD YOU EACH TAKEN AN ENTRANCE, PERHAPS ONE OF YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND THE CENTER IN TIME.
THOSE TWO PATHS ARE DEAD-ENDS. THIS WAY.
NO.
NO.
THIS WAY.

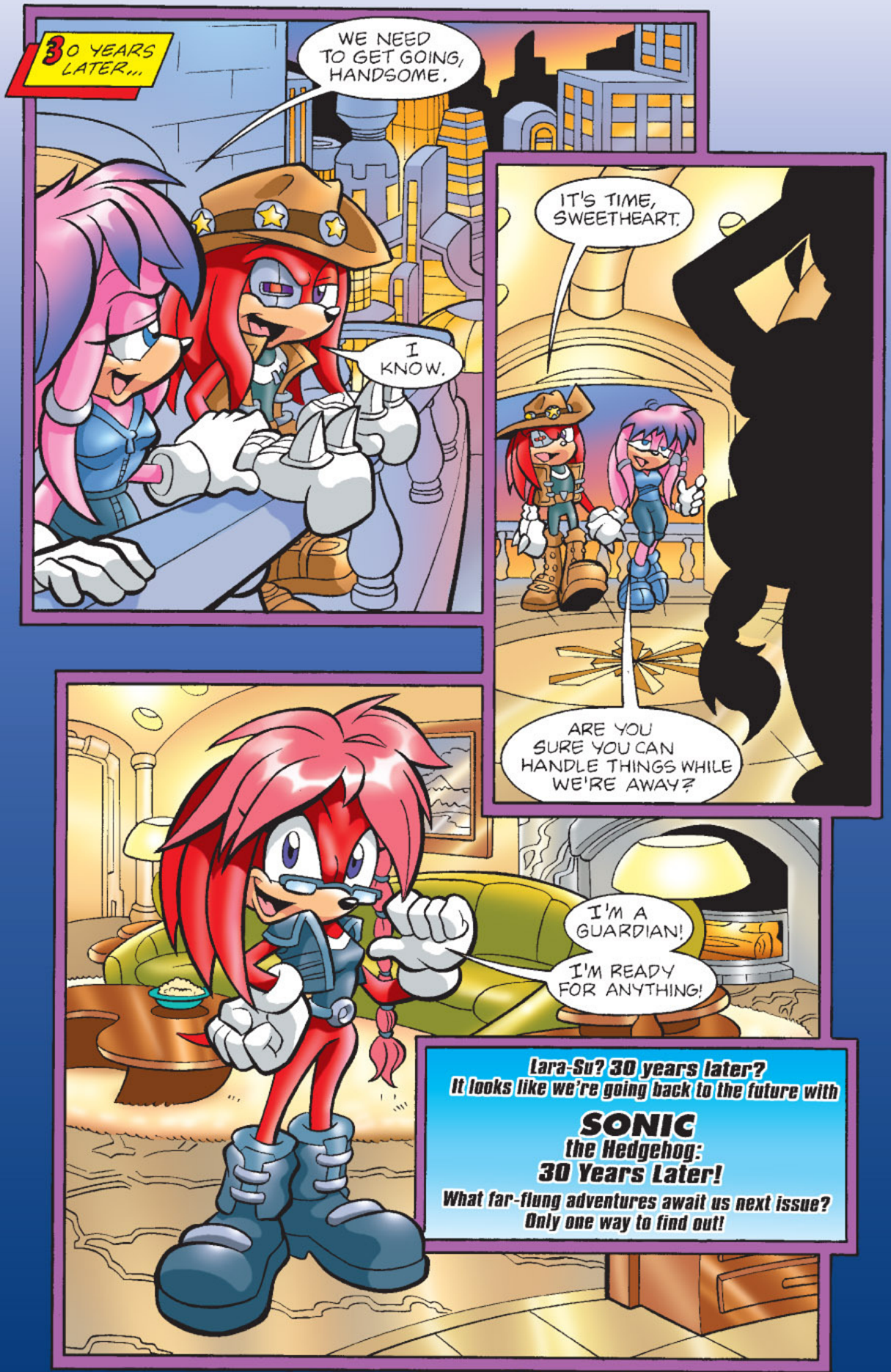

CONCENTRATION OF ENERGY AHEAD. PROBABLE TRAP.
UNDERSTOOD!
NOT SO FAST, HANDSOME.
THANKS.
WE FOUND IT!
NO!
WE COMPLETED YOUR TRIAL, FEIST!
HA HA HA! YOUR LAST SECONDS SLIP AWAY, MORTAL!

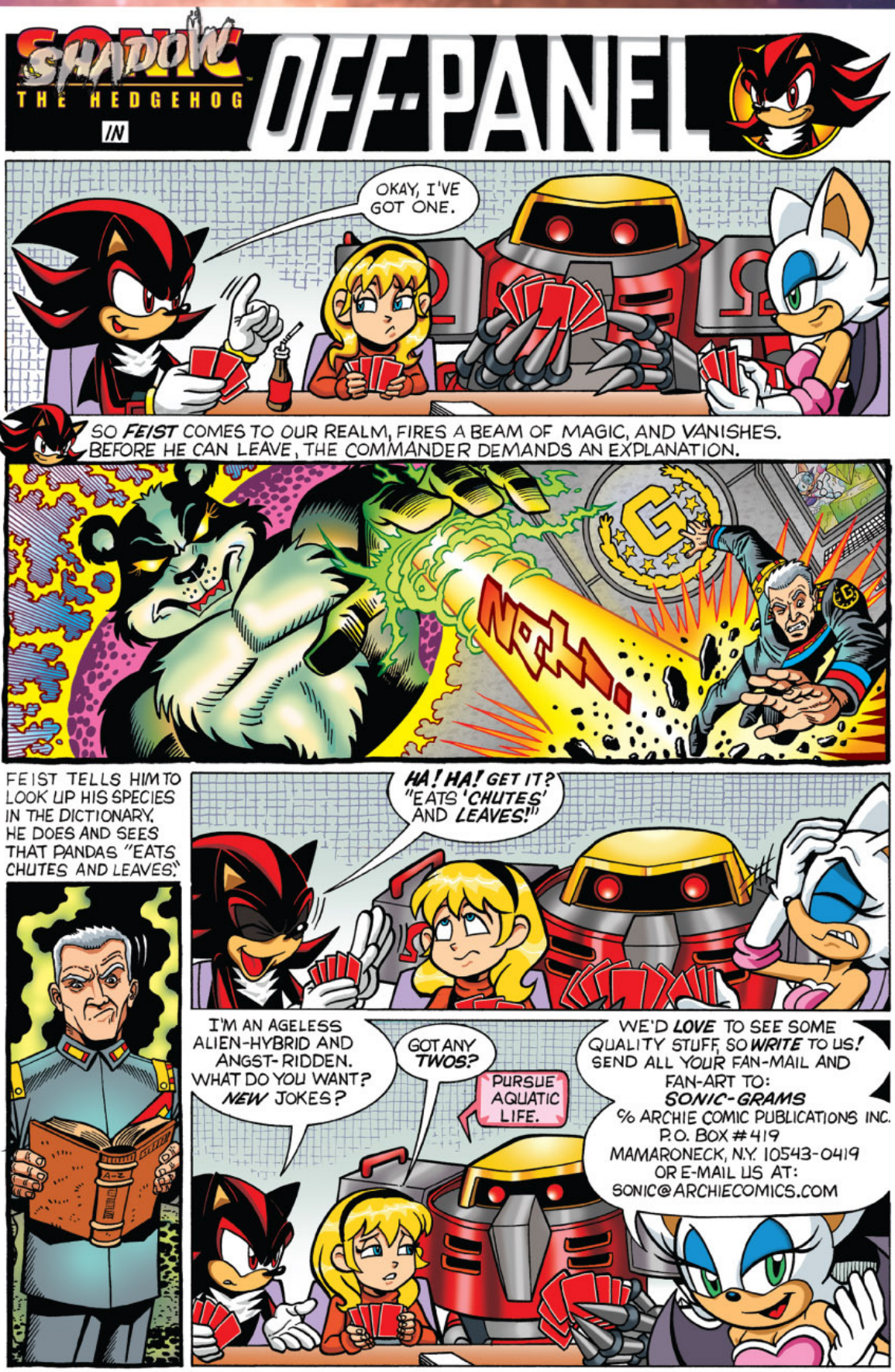

ANY OTHER DAY I'D BE GRABBING AS MANY OF THESE LITTLE GEMS AS I COULD!
CRUSH! MAIM! DESTROY!
THERE!
SHALL I COUNT DOWN THE LAST FIVE SECONDS FOR YOU?
FIVE! FOUR! THREE! TWO!
I ALMOST HAVE THE BLASTED THING!
HA HA HA! TOO LATE.
NO!

HA HA HA! AN EXCELLENT SHOW! BUT ONCE AGAIN YOU HAVE FAILED. PERHAPS TOMORROW YOU SHALL RETURN AND ENTERTAIN FEIST FURTHER?
PLAN B NOW? PLEASE?
YES, OMEGA, PLAN B.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
RRAAARGH!!!
I ENJOY PLAN B!
COME ON, OMEGA!
BUT I STILL HAVE FIVE MORE SALVOS--
MOVE IT, MISTER!

HOW DARE YOU ASSAULT A GOD IN HIS OWN DOMAIN?!
DENY ME ALL YOU WANT, BUT WITH THIS, EVEN A GOD MUST BOW TO THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM.
CHAOS CONTROL!
CURSE YOU!
...AND WE'RE BACK.


MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. HAUGHTY GOD-LIKE BEING ADMONISHED WITH FIRE. A GOOD DAY!
THAT WAS THRILLING!
GOOD JOB... TEAM.
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
AND YOU WERE RIGHT.
AND YOU PUT QUITE THE HURTING ON FEIST. NICE WORK, BIG BOY.
OH, WELL, IT WAS ONLY A SMALL MEGATON OF ORDINANCE...
EXCELLENT WORK, TEAM DARK.
THANK YOU, COMMANDER TOWER.
WITH THESE TWO CHAOS EMERALDS, G.U.N. IS EVEN MORE OF A FORCE TO RECKON WITH...


30 YEARS LATER...
WE NEED TO GET GOING, HANDSOME.
I KNOW.
IT'S TIME, SWEETHEART.
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THINGS WHILE WE'RE AWAY?
I'M A GUARDIAN!
I'M READY FOR ANYTHING!
Lara-Su? 30 years later?
It looks like we're going back to the future with
SONIC
the Hedgehog:
30 Years Later!
What far-flung adventures await us next issue?
Only one way to find out!


SONIC SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG IN
OFF-PANEL
OKAY, I'VE GOT ONE.
SO FEIST COMES TO OUR REALM, FIRES A BEAM OF MAGIC, AND VANISHES. BEFORE HE CAN LEAVE, THE COMMANDER DEMANDS AN EXPLANATION.
NO!!
FEIST TELLS HIM TO LOOK UP HIS SPECIES IN THE DICTIONARY. HE DOES AND SEES THAT PANDAS "EATS CHUTES AND LEAVES."
HA! HA! GET IT? "EATS 'CHUTES' AND LEAVES!"
I'M AN AGELESS ALIEN-HYBRID AND ANGST-RIDDEN. WHAT DO YOU WANT? NEW JOKES?
GOT ANY TWOS?
PURSUE AQUATIC LIFE.
WE'D LOVE TO SEE SOME QUALITY STUFF, SO WRITE TO US! SEND ALL YOUR FAN-MAIL AND FAN-ART TO:
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